



BUREAU OF AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR

BAR Advisory Group Meeting

Contractors State License Board

Monday, November 13, 2006



MEETING MINUTES

♦ Advisory Group Members in Attendance:

Louis J. Anapolsky
Paul Frech
Jack Molodanof
Randy Ward

Bob Constant
George Hritz
Rosemary Shahan
Peter Welch

Dennis DeCota
Marty Keller
Chris Walker

♦ BAR Staff in Attendance:

Sherry Mehl
Dennis Kenneally
Michael Lafferty
Kate McGuire

Mike Vanderlaan
George Adelsperger
Debbie Romani
Gil DeLuna

Dick Sullivan
Wayne Ramos
Stephanie Hendrix
Jeanne Jackson

♦ Welcoming Remarks and Introductions – Dennis Kenneally, BAR Assistant Chief

The meeting was called to order at 9:31 A.M. Assistant Chief Dennis Kenneally introduced the BAR Chief, Sherry Mehl.

♦ Chief's Remarks:

Chief Mehl thanked the audience for coming. Ms. Mehl explained that her appointment as Chief of the BAR is a new phase in her career and one she takes on heartily. Prior to her appointment to the BAR, Sherry was the Chief Deputy Director of the department. She looks forward to working with the BAG members and utilizing the BAG as an industry forum and envisions an opportunity of transparency between BAR and Interested Parties. She would like to move forward, air issues, work together to format resolutions and find a solution. She solicited BAG members for advice on the following issues: Low Pressure Fuel Evaporative, BAR 97, Assembly Bill 1870 (Lieber) and how they will impact the industry. Chief Mehl stated that she would like BAR and BAG to move together to clean up California air and reduce Motor Vehicle emissions. She would like to establish consistent and fair disciplinary guidelines and educate consumers so that they may become partners in clean air as well.

♦ Agenda Item: BAR OVERVIEW and discussion – Dennis Kenneally, Assistant Chief, BAR

Assistant Chief Kenneally introduced BAG members by calling out their names and asking each to stand. The minutes and agendas from the last meeting were accepted unanimously.

Assistant Chief Kenneally requested comments from BAG participants regarding the Ombudsman position. Discussion was opened up for comments on the desirability of the Ombudsman. Chief Mehl explained that she and Assistant Chief Kenneally are now handling concerns that were delegated to the Ombudsman and requested feedback on continuing this function. BAG members

commented that the relationship between industry and the BAR is the issue and the key to that relationship is trust. Industry has past trust issues with the BAR. Chief Mehl suggested that industry continue to contact her and the Assistant Chief and this issue be reviewed later for more BAG feedback.

A. BAR New Public Web site:

Jeff Wilcox provided a Power Point presentation of the new BAR Web site, which is currently under construction. He cited the advantages of the new site and explained what still needs to be done.

B. BAG Meeting dates and locations for 2007:

Next Advisory Group meeting is January 9, 2007. Meetings are scheduled quarterly and the schedule for 2007 was distributed to all BAG members.

♦ **Legislation & Regulation Discussion – Dick Sullivan, BAR Program Manager II, Inspection & Maintenance (I/M) Field Operations**

Dick Sullivan discussed Assembly Bill 1870 (Lieber). This bill was chaptered in September 2006 and will be implemented January 1, 2008. It incorporates a visible smoke test into the Smog Check inspection. The goal of this bill is to remove 1.6 tons of emissions from the air per day. The test is done visually on a pass/fail basis and there is no additional equipment cost to stations. A question and answer period followed with a suggestion made by several BAG members to increase the CAP repair assistance level to \$700.

♦ **Auto Body Inspection Program – Wayne Ramos, Program Manager II, BAR Automotive Repair Program**

Wayne Ramos explained that the Automotive Repair Division would be implementing an Auto Body Inspection Program similar to the two-year Pilot Auto Body program that ended in 2003. Under this new inspection program, consumers who have had collision repairs can contact the BAR through a toll free phone number and have these repairs inspected. If deficiencies are identified, the BAR will address them with the auto body repair shop and consumers will have the option of filing a complaint. A press release will be forthcoming to announce the official kick off of the Auto Body Inspection Program.

Wayne further mentioned that BAR is also considering incorporating a citation and fine program in the Automotive Repair Division that is similar to the Smog Check citation/fine program as a progressive means of gaining compliance for specified violations of general automotive repair laws and regulations. Wayne suggested as an example one area we might consider applying citation authority to is violations of Brake & Lamp inspections and certification procedures. Chief Mehl added that the citation process would be a useful tool in helping gain compliance for violations that might otherwise have to be pursued through a formal administrative disciplinary process that is costly and time consuming. She feels that the citation/fine process for general automotive repair violations will be an added progressive disciplinary component that also provides an appeal process.

The proposed revisions to the current disciplinary guidelines have gone through the workshop hearing stage of the regulatory process and the public comments made are being evaluated. Wayne explained the purpose of the guidelines and that the revisions are being proposed because of changes

in current laws and regulations. The BAR will look to industry to provide input on the disciplinary guidelines revisions.

At the suggestion of Chief Mehl, a sign-up sheet was placed in the back of the conference room and BAG members were asked to sign up to be part of the working group for discussion of the disciplinary guidelines.

The first meeting of the Disciplinary Guidelines Work Group has been scheduled on November 27, 2006.

♦ **Consumer Assistance Program (CAP) Update – Michael Lafferty**

Michael Lafferty shared information on the new CAP application and provided a supply of the applications and an informational fact sheet to all attendees. He is currently working with the BAR Outreach program to distribute Breathe Easier posters and applications holders to Smog Check stations. BAR distributed CAP information fliers directly to the Smog Check stations that fail the most cars per last quarter's test data. CAP also is doing outreach with other state agencies to link them to the BAR website. A question and answer period followed the presentation.

♦ **Low Pressure Fuel Evaporative Test Update – Michael Vanderlaan, Deputy Chief, Smog Check Operations**

Michael Vanderlaan explained that the 50 Questions from Low Pressure Fuel Evaporation Test (LPFET) workshops are available in draft form and will be posted on the BAR website. The LPFET regulations were distributed for review. This program is an effective way to remove hydrocarbons from the air and will result in a reduction of 14 tons per day of emissions.

A question period followed with responses given by BAR staff.

♦ **General Public Comments**

Comments on various issues were raised and discussed with BAR staff. Chief Mehl was congratulated on her new appointment.

♦ **Action Items**

- Technical assistance in High Schools
- Time to re-think BAG. Should it be more task force oriented instead of just open forum type meetings?
- What is the role of industry trade standards in regard to industry regulation?
- Workshop on Disciplinary Guidelines

♦ **Adjournment:** 12:02 p.m.

♦ **Next Meeting Date:** Tuesday, January 9, 2007 – Contractors State License Board